

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] To describe the present invention with reference to the details of a particular preferred embodiment, it is noted that the present invention may be employed in an electronic system comprising a network of slave devices, for example, an electronic blasting system in which the slave devices are electronic detonators. As depicted in **Fig. 1**, one embodiment of such an electronic blasting system may comprise a number of detonators 20, a two-line bus 18, leg wires 19 including connectors for attaching the detonator to the bus 18, a logger (not shown), and a blasting machine 40. The detonators 20 are preferably connected to the blasting machine 40 in parallel (as in **Fig. 1**) or in other arrangements including branch (as with the branched bus 18' shown in **Fig. 2**), tree, star, or multiple parallel connections. A preferred embodiment of such an electronic blasting system is described below, although it will be readily appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art that other systems or devices could also be used, and many configurations, variations, and modifications of even the particular system described here could be made, without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] As shown in **Fig. 3**, a suitable detonator 20 for use in an electronic blasting system such as that described here may comprise an electronic ignition module (EIM) 23, a shell 29, a charge 36 (preferably comprising a primary charge and base charge), leg wires 19, and an end plug 34 that may be crimped in the open end of the shell 29. The EIM 23 is preferably programmable and includes an igniter 28 and a circuit board to which may be connected various electronic components. In the embodiment described here, the igniter 28 is preferably a hermetically sealed device that includes a glass-to-metal seal and a bridgewire 27 designed to reliably ignite a charge contained within the igniter 28 upon the passage through the bridgewire 27 of electricity via pins 21 at a predetermined "all-fire" voltage level. The EIM 23 (including its electronics and part or all of its igniter 28) may preferably be insert-molded into an encapsulation 31 to form a single assembly with terminals for attachment of the leg wires 19. Assignee's co-pending U.S. Patent Applications Serial No. 10/158,317 (at pages 5-8 and Figs. 1-5) and Serial No. 10/158,318 (at pages 3-8 and Figs. 1-6), both filed on May 29, 2002, are hereby incorporated by reference for their applicable teachings of the construction of such detonators beyond the description that is set forth herein. As taught in those applications, an EIM 23 generally like the one depicted in **Fig. 3** can be manufactured and handled in standalone form, for later incorporation by a user into the user's own custom detonator assembly (including a shell 29 and charge 36).

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] The flag data bits from devices can be used to indicate the current state of the device and are preferably included in all device responses. These flags can be arranged, for example, so that one flag indicates whether or not the device has [[been]] been detected on the bus, another indicates whether it has been calibrated, another indicates whether it is currently charged, and another indicates whether it has received a Fire command. A flag value of 1 (high) can then signify a response in the affirmative and 0 (low) in the negative.